

87

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/604,583	KELLEY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Dustin Nguyen	2154	

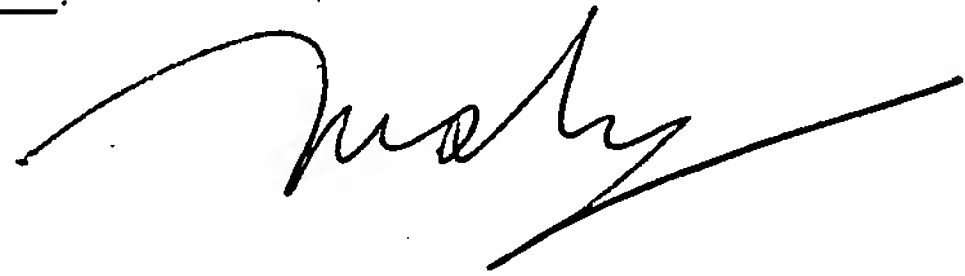
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--  
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/30/2007.
- 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11, 12, 14 and 35, now renumbered as 1-13.
- 3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- 4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  - 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

- Attachment(s)**
- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                           | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|                                                                                                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                                |



### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney, Jennifer Pearson Medlin, on 10/31/2007.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 35 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An autonomic e-mail processing system embedded in a computer readable storage medium for use on a voluntary basis by senders and recipients as part of an e-mail server system, the autonomic e-mail processing system comprising:

a first component for enabling a sender of an e-mail message to designate a first e-mail message for autonomic processing, the first e-mail message having at least an address portion which identifies a plurality of intended recipients and a note portion which contains information to be sent to the plurality of intended recipients of the e-mail message;

a second component for identifying the first e-mail message designated for autonomic processing with a unique sending identification number within the autonomic e-mail processing system;

a third component operable to enable the plurality of intended recipients to indicate that an autonomic response is being sent in response to the first e-mail message;

a fourth component for identifying each autonomic response to the first e-mail message with a responding identification number that in combination with the unique sending identification number for the first e-mail message forms a combination identification number that is unique within the autonomic e-mail processing system;

a fifth component operable to enable the sender of the first e-mail message to designate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed; ~~and~~

a sixth component operable to inform at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed;

a seventh component operable to enable an intended recipient of the first e-mail message that is responding thereto to indicate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed;

an eighth component operable to inform at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of the first e-mail message is considered, by at least one of the recipients, to be completed; and

a ninth component operable by the sender of the first e-mail message for deselecting the selection made by an intended recipient via the seventh component.

7. (Currently Amended) The automatic e-mail processing system of Claim 1, further comprising:

first means for designating autonomic e-mail messages within the automatic e-mail processing system so as to distinguish them from non-autonomic e-mail message;

second means for designating automatic e-mail messages as being in process and as having been completed;

means for automatically generating unique sending identification numbers for use by the second component; and

means for automatically generating responding identification numbers for use by the fourth component.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The autonomic e-mail processing system of claim ~~10~~1, wherein: the seventh component includes means for causing to be displayed a plurality of seventh indicators at least temporarily associated with the first e-mail message and visually discernable by a plurality of the intended recipients, each on their own respective screen, the seventh indicators each being operable to have at least a portion thereof selected by its respective intended recipient in order to designate that the autonomic processing for the first e-mail message is considered, by that recipient, to be completed; and the eighth component includes means for causing to be displayed a plurality of eighth indicators associated at least temporarily with at least the first e-mail message and visually discernable by at least the sender and a plurality of the intended recipients, each on their own respective screen, the eighth indicators each being

Art Unit: 2154

operable to display a representation indicating that the processing of the first e-mail message is considered, by a recipient, to be completed.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The autonomic e-mail processing system of claim ~~13~~1, wherein the ninth component includes a third radio button that is selectable by the sender of the first e-mail message for deselecting the "Completed Yet" selection made by an intended recipient.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, to be used in conjunction with an e-mail system having as least one computer having at least one processing circuit, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by at least the one processing circuit and storing instructions for execution for by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising the steps of:

a) providing means for a plurality of senders of e-mail messages within an organization to designate selected e-mail messages of theirs and responses thereto for autonomic processing;

b) designating, via a selection made by a first sender, at least a first e-mail message for autonomic processing;

(c) identifying a plurality of intended recipients in an address portion of such first e-mail message, and entering information in a note portion of such first e-mail message;

(d) identifying the first e-mail message designated for autonomic processing with a unique sending identification number within the e-mail system;

(e) providing means for each intended recipient of such first e-mail message to indicate that an autonomic response is being sent in response thereto;

(f) identifying each autonomic response to such first e-mail message with a responding identification number that in combination with the unique sending identification number for such first e-mail message within the e-mail system is unique;

(g) providing means to enable the sender of such first e-mail message to indicate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed; and

(h) informing at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of such first e-mail message has been completed;

(i) providing means to enable an intended recipient of the first e-mail message that is responding thereto to indicate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed;

(j) inform at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of the first e-mail message is considered, by at least one of the recipients, to be completed; and

(k) providing means to enable by the sender of the first e-mail message for deselecting the selection made by an intended recipient via the seventh component.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14 and 35, the prior art of record, individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest or render obvious the claimed invention in combination with Applicants' arguments. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an autonomic e-mail processing system embedded in a computer readable storage medium for use



Art Unit: 2154

on a voluntary basis by senders and recipients as part of an e-mail server system, the autonomic e-mail processing system comprising: a first component for enabling a sender of an e-mail message to designate a first e-mail message for autonomic processing, the first e-mail message having at least an address portion which identifies a plurality of intended recipients and a note portion which contains information to be sent to the plurality of intended recipients of the e-mail message; a second component for identifying the first e-mail message designated for autonomic processing with a unique sending identification number within the autonomic e-mail processing system; a third component operable to enable the plurality of intended recipients to indicate that an autonomic response is being sent in response to the first e-mail message; a fourth component for identifying each autonomic response to the first e-mail message with a responding identification number that in combination with the unique sending identification number for the first e-mail message forms a combination identification number that is unique within the autonomic e-mail processing system; a fifth component operable to enable the sender of the first e-mail message to designate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed; a sixth component operable to inform at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed; a seventh component operable to enable an intended recipient of the first e-mail message that is responding thereto to indicate that the processing of the first e-mail message has been completed; an eighth component operable to inform at least a plurality of the intended recipients that the processing of the first e-mail message is considered, by at least one of the recipients, to be completed; and a ninth component operable by the sender of the first e-mail message for deselecting the

Art Unit: 2154

selection made by an intended recipient via the seventh component (as disclosed in specification paragraphs 0040, 0045, 0046, 0048, 0064, 0065, 0068 and 0069; and Figures 2-4).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dustin Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Flynn Nathan can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 2154

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dustin Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2154

